

Connecticut General Assembly  
**Testimony Before the Committee on Public Health**  
**In Support of SB 237**

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My name is Teresa Eickel and I want to thank the Committee on Public Health for the opportunity to submit this testimony. As the Executive Director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, an interfaith, environmental organization, I represent hundreds of congregations in Connecticut that are deeply concerned about the state of the planet.

On behalf of my organization and the Board of Directors, I wish to say that we are completely opposed to fracking. Natural gas is, at best, a *very* short-term solution to our energy problems. Instead, we should be moving towards clean, renewable energy that creates jobs here in Connecticut and is not harmful to God's planet.

We urge a complete ban on fracking waste in Connecticut. Fracking waste is toxic, extremely harmful to public health and the environment, and contains known carcinogens, such as benzene, naphthalene, and acrylamide. Currently, the combination of chemicals that companies use to frack is proprietary, which means they do not have to disclose what they are using – thus, the full threat of fracking wastewater is unknown. Fracking wastewater has been found to contain harmful toxins that cause different nervous system, liver, and kidney disorders, as well as astronomical levels of radiation. Fracking wastewater often contaminates drinking and bathing water, which leaves people at incredible risk for illness, pain, and suffering.

This is completely unacceptable. As a community of faith, we stand in defense of the poorest and most vulnerable, who are more exposed to environmental toxins and who have fewer options to protect themselves. Please support Senate Bill 237 and ban fracking waste in Connecticut. Please protect our residents and our environment from this hazardous waste product.

Thank you for your time.